

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace FIG. 10 with the attached Replacement Sheet containing amended FIG. 10.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, and 11 were rejected. Claims 12 and 13 were allowed and claims 3-5 and 9 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 6 are amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 3 and 9, respectively. Accordingly, claims 3 and 9 are canceled. New claim 14 is added, which is supported by original claim 6 and the specification at page 8, ¶ [0035], indicating that there can be “axial movement of the guide 815 away from the distal end 817 of the cannula 810.”

Correction to Specification

As noted by Examiner, an incorrect reference number is contained in ¶ [0033] of the specification. Appropriate correction has been made.

Replacement Drawings

FIG. 10 was objected to because the arrows referred to in the specification were missing. Applicants submit the attached Replacement Sheet containing FIG. 10 amended to include two small black arrows near the center of the drawing.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, and 11 stand rejected under § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,353,762 (Baudino et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,969,388 (Goldman et al.). Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by *Baudino* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,029,091 (de la Rama et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 3. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 are rendered moot and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 6 is amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 9. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 6-8, 10, and 11 are rendered moot and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claim 14

Claim 14 recites a guide which is independently movable in relation to the cannula. As shown in FIGS. 8A and 8C, the guide (815) can move axially back and forth in relation to the cannula (810) to permit the electrodes to exit.

Applicants submit that claim 14 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by any of the references cited in the Office Action. For example, the guide described in *Baudino* is not movable at all because the guide and the cannula form a single unit, as shown in FIG. 8. Therefore, *Baudino* does not teach a guide that is independently movable in relation to the cannula, as recited in claim 14. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 14 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by *Baudino*.

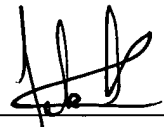
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative to discuss any issue that would expedite allowance of this application.

No extensions of time or other fees are required in connection with the filing of this response. However, any such fees are hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600 (Kenyon & Kenyon LLP).

Respectfully submitted,

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